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Children's Newspaper

Every Wednesday—Fourpence 5th November, 1960

Farewell to the Black Arrows

No more aerobatics from Treble One Squadron

THAT wonderful aerobatic team, the world-famous Black Arrows, have given their last performance. The R.A.F. squadron, No. 111, to which they belong, is to be re-equipped with twin-jet Lightning fighters, aircraft able to fly at twice the speed of sound, too fast for displays viewed from the ground.

The team first roared into the skies—and international renown—in 1955, when Squadron Leader Roger Topp became their commander. A former test pilot of the Comet airliner, his sparetime hobby had been aerobatics—often in a Canberra bomber! He trained his pilots of "Treble One" squadron in high-speed formation flying, and by 1957 they had become the R.A.F.'s senior team.

They set themselves the target of leading the world in aerobatics, and in achieving it brought new prestige to Britain. At international flying shows they looped, rolled, dived, and wheeled together—often with each plane only four feet from its neighbour, a split second from collision.

They gained their name after a breathtaking display in Bordeaux. A French journalist, thrilled by the spectacular precision flying, described them as *Les Fleches Volantes*—The Flying Arrows. When the pilots of Treble One returned to France some time later they had painted their planes black—the squadron's traditional colour—and the French promptly named them the Black Arrows.

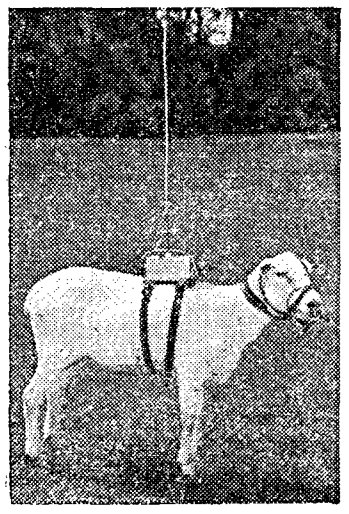
Then in 1958 came the sad day when their leader was promoted and posted to another squadron. As a farewell gesture they carried out what is perhaps one of the most thrilling feats of aerobatic history—a loop with 22 aircraft tightly packed in perfect formation.

Roger Topp's place was taken by Peter Latham, who carried on the good work. Skilfully using smoke trails like an artist's brush in the sky, he introduced new manoeuvres, all breathlessly exciting. The Black Arrows were in great demand.

Altogether, in their four seasons they gave 150 displays in over a hundred different places—in Belgium, France, Germany, Holland, Italy, Norway, Portugal, Switzerland, and Spain as well as Britain. With their passing the R.A.F. faces a new challenge: to produce another Hunter Squadron as good as the Black Arrows.

WALKIE-TALKIE FOR THE SHEEP

Determined not to be like Bo-Peep, who lost her sheep and didn't know where to find them,



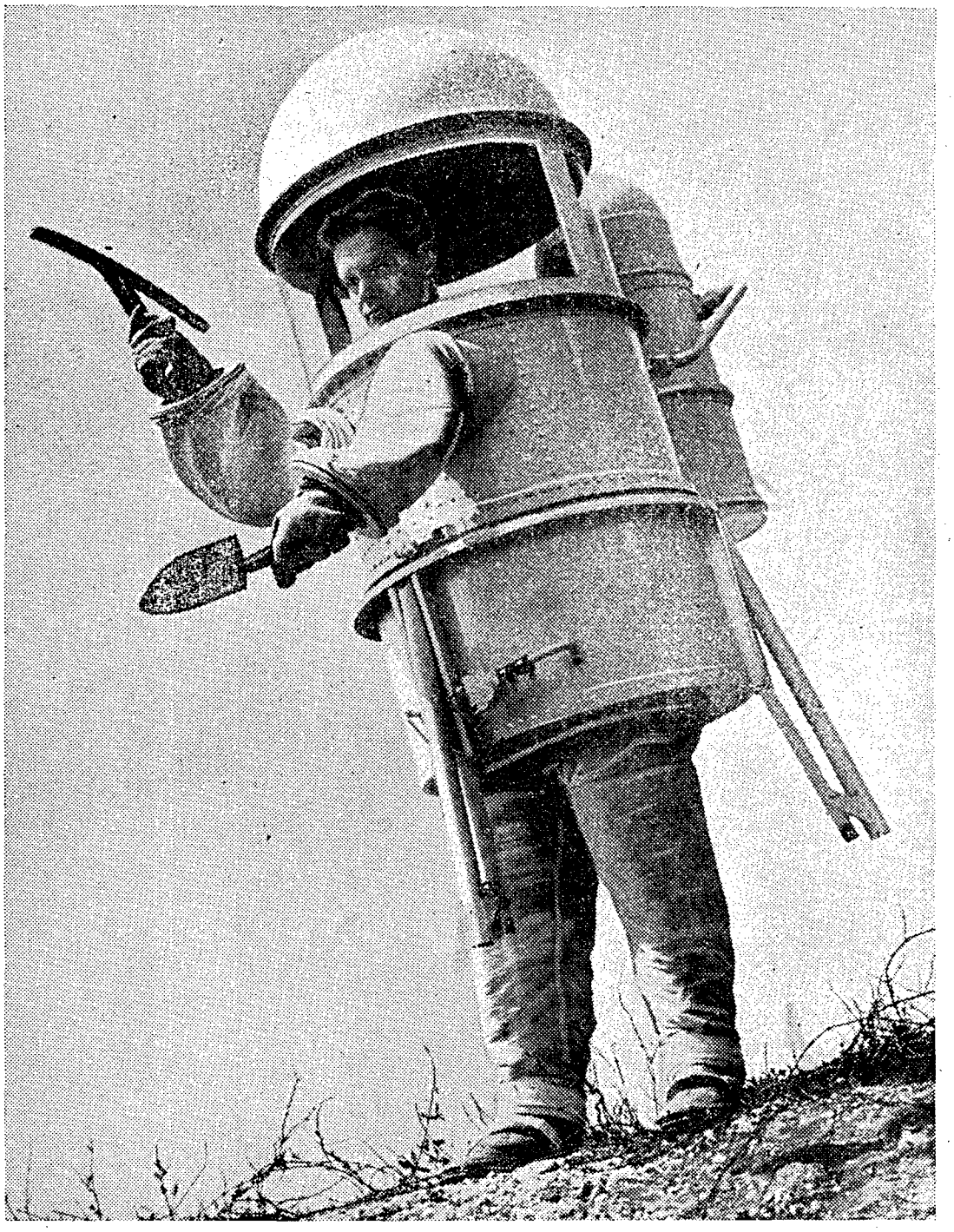
Australian farmers are now using a form of walkie-talkie radio to get up-to-the-minute information of the whereabouts of their vast flocks.

In Australia—the biggest sheep-rearing country in the world—a single sheep farm may be as big as an English county, with the flocks roaming at will over many miles of open country.

A radio transmitting set is strapped to the back of one sheep in each flock, and as sheep act like sheep and keep together, the intermittent signal sent out by the set can pinpoint the whole flock at a moment's notice whenever the farmer wants to round them up for inspection.

A small direction-finder in the farmhouse is the only equipment the farmer needs to save himself a great deal of time and travel.

MAN IN A MOON SUIT



An American firm has produced this suit for explorers on the Moon. It has a built-in tripod support enabling the wearer to take out his legs from the trouser section and relax on a seat in the aluminium torso.

Antarctic huts to become museums

Huts built and used half a century ago in the Antarctic by the British explorers Shackleton and Scott are to be restored.

Work has already started on the Shackleton hut of 1908-09 at Cape Royds. The Scott hut is at Cape Evans and both jobs are being tackled by volunteers of the New Zealand Antarctic Society, who will free the little buildings, scene of so many plans and hopes, from the snow and ice which has buried them. They will then be transformed into permanent museums of Antarctic exploration.

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13-mile walk through Shakespeare country

A neglected Warwickshire waterway has been taken over by the National Trust. It is a section of the old Stratford-upon-Avon canal which runs for 13 miles through Shakespeare's countryside, joining the River Avon in front of the Memorial Theatre at Stratford.

The towpath, not previously a right of way, will provide delightful walks, away from traffic. Volunteers have been busy clearing the canal for boating, but funds are urgently needed to complete the work.

The National Trust now has over 130 historic buildings and 275,000 acres of unspoiled countryside in its care. It has 93,000 members and is campaigning hard to enrol its 100,000th before the end of this year.

GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER

More than 60 Bavarian schoolchildren spent three weeks this year in the homes of British boys and girls, and then took their young hosts back with them for three weeks in Bavaria during the August holidays. The scheme has proved so successful that next year it is to be extended to the whole of West Germany.

The cost for British children is between £10 and £15, including travel. Details can be obtained from The Educational Interchange Council, 43 Parliament Street, London, S.W.1.

The Council also arranges for British boys and girls aged 16 to 19 to spend a term at a school in Germany while staying with a family there. Scholarships covering part of the cost of £55 are offered by the German education authorities.

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How the United States elects its President

By the C N Diplomatic Correspondent

Next Wednesday we shall know whether the new President of the United States is to be Richard Nixon (Republican) or John Kennedy (Democrat). Whoever it is, will take office at noon on 20th January next, when President Eisenhower's second four-year term ends. If Richard Nixon becomes President his Vice-President will be Henry Cabot Lodge. If Mr. Kennedy wins, the Vice-President will be Lyndon Johnson.

THE United States, like Britain, has two main political parties —Republicans and Democrats. The Republicans (the party of President Eisenhower) are also known as the Grand Old Party, and use an elephant as their symbol. The emblem of the Democrats is a donkey. Their last President was Harry S. Truman, whose term ended in 1953.

Many American States start the process of electing the President as early as March. This is done



Mr. John Kennedy

at "primary" elections at which delegates are chosen, their job being to vote for suitable candidates at the big National party conventions in the following August.

These national conventions last for three or four days. In addition to nominating the Presidential and Vice-Presidential candidates, the conventions also outline their party policies for the big election in November.

One colourful sidelight of the conventions is that, as each State names its candidate in turn, an organ or band bursts into the traditional State song and the delegation troops through the hall carrying posters boosting the special virtues of the candidate.

By an intricate process of elimination or sieving, each party chooses its candidate for the posts of President and Vice-President. Campaigning proceeds with zest, with the rival contenders making "whistle-stop" tours of the country by train and car, flying hither and thither, making countless public speeches, shaking hands, kissing babies, broadcasting and—a new departure this year—even appearing together on TV.

Just pull the lever

Next Wednesday, when the election is over, the 60 million American voters will not only have settled the nation's leadership for the next four years, they will also have elected 33 of America's 100 Senators and all 437 members of the lower chamber, the House of Representatives.

They will also have elected State officials as well as mayors, aldermen, magistrates, and other local dignitaries.

Electioneering in the United States is indeed a complicated business—even to Americans. To begin with, although the ballot is secret (as in Britain) voting machines are used in many places. The voter just pulls a series of levers at the three levels—national, State, and local—and his X is stamped automatically against the candidates he favours.

Americans elect a President every Leap Year on a fixed day—the Tuesday following the first Monday in November. A President cannot serve for more than two terms, a total of eight years. Senators sit for six years. Repre-



Mr. Richard Nixon

sentatives (or Congressmen) for two years.

Now the Parliament or Congress of the United States has two "houses," as in Britain. These two houses are the Senate and the House of Representatives and, as we have said, comprise 100 Senators and 437 Representatives. Mid-term elections for Congress take place in the even years between Presidential elections—for example, 1958 and 1962.

The United States is a federation of States, from Alabama to Wyoming. In other words, it is run by a federal (national) Government which sits in Washington. For most internal purposes the separate States govern themselves; but external matters, such as foreign policy and defence, are the concern of the federal Government.

One last formality

Each of the 50 States (Hawaii and Alaska have been added since the 1956 election) sends two Senators to Congress. The Representatives, like our M.P.s, are elected by geographical districts on the basis of population. These districts in each State correspond to constituencies in Britain.

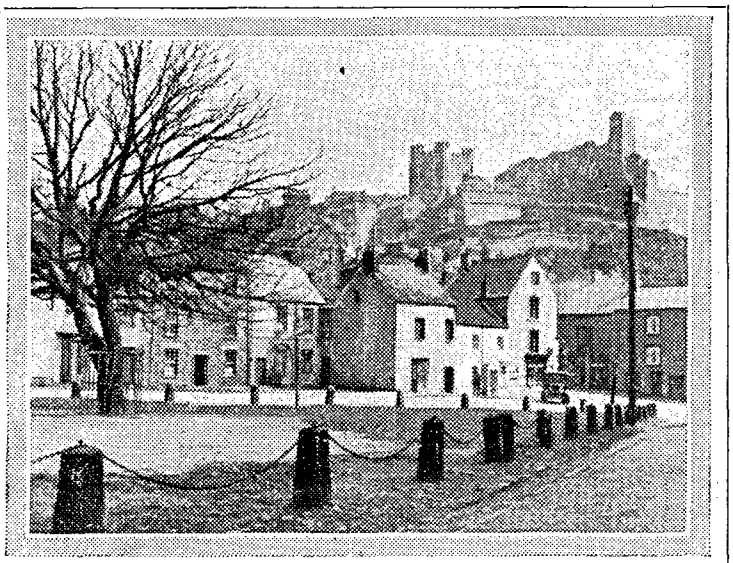
After all the pre-election excitement comes the great day—next Tuesday in this year of 1960—when the people go to the polls to decide who shall be President for the next four years.

But there is one formality still to be carried out. According to the American constitution of 1787, the vote of the people — the popular vote—must be confirmed by an electoral vote of Senators and members of the House of Representatives, comprising what is called the Electoral College.

This means that the candidate chosen by the people must win at least 269 votes of Senators and Representatives before he goes to the White House in Washington.

In practice, the candidate who wins the popular vote becomes President and so there is little danger of the verdict of the people being overruled.

The man who is chosen next Tuesday will take the oath on 20th January next year and become the 35th President of the United States of America.



OUR HOMELAND The 900-year-old castle on the hill at Richmond, Yorkshire.

NEWS FROM EVERYWHERE

Prince Charles has been awarded his National Cycling Proficiency Certificate and badge.

Joined end to end, the knitting wool used every day by girls and women in Britain would stretch nearly four times round the Earth. So states the International Wool Secretariat.

BIG BIRD

Footprints of a giant prehistoric bird of prey have been found in Spitsbergen. The creature is estimated to have been about 40 feet long and 12 feet high.

The George Cross has been awarded posthumously to Raymond Donoghue, tram conductor of Hobart, Tasmania. At the cost of his own life, he saved others by sticking to his post and ringing his alarm bell, when his tram ran backwards out of control.

The Nuffield Talking Book Library for the Blind is to spend £100,000 on replacing its long-playing records with tape recordings.

In just over a year, the American satellite Explorer VII has circled the Earth more than 5,000 times, travelled 145 million miles, and sent out signals recorded at ground stations on 1,200 miles of tape.

More people travelled to and from Britain by air than by sea in the first half of this year.

All the rage



A Canadian airline stewardess arrives at Vancouver with some of the new plastic dolls from Japan. As described recently in CN, this doll has become all the rage in Tokyo where it is known as *Dakkochan* (embraceable).

THEY SAY . . .

I AM optimistic enough to believe that this next decade will see the dud driver and the dud vehicle finally eliminated from our roads.

Director-General, Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents

FOR REAL LIFE ADVENTURE

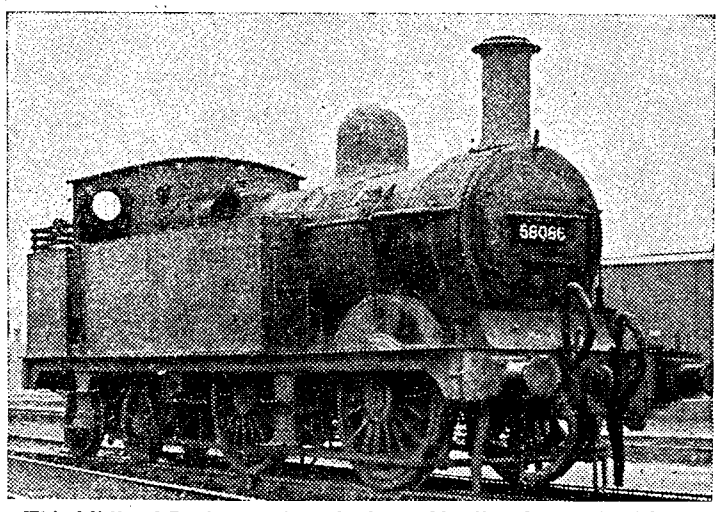
It's a BIKE I'd like FOR CHRISTMAS



FREE CATALOGUES FROM YOUR CYCLE DEALER

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LAST OF ITS LINE



This Midland Region engine, the last of its line, has retired from active service. A Class One, 0-4-4 passenger tank locomotive, one of 20 built for the old Midland Railway, it started work in August, 1900, and ran 1,476,559 miles.

Down on the butterfly farm in Dorset

An unusual kind of farm—a butterfly farm—has been started at Charmouth, Dorset, by Mr. and Mrs. John H. Gooden and their two sons.

Many different varieties of butterflies and moths are reared there, for supplying laboratories, museums, and collectors both at home and overseas.

One of the species they are breeding is the Giant Atlas Moth, the larvae of which have been sent to them by a Chinese friend living in Formosa.

COMIC IN GAELIC

Children in the Highlands and islands of Scotland are now getting their own comic—in Gaelic.

Published by the Gaelic-promoting organisation, An Comunn Gaidhealach, to help keep the Gaelic tongue alive among younger folk, the new paper is called *Sradag* (Spark). It has comic strips in colour and illustrated stories about the Western Highlands.

Behind the idea is Mr. Roderick Mackinnon, a Perth headmaster who is a native of the Isle of Skye.

Keep clear of these snakes

THE LONDON ZOO has just received two exceptionally fine snakes from Paraguay. They are a Crossed viper and a Short-tailed coral snake.

"The Crossed viper (so-called from its peculiar markings) we have now put on exhibition in the reptile house, along with another snake of this species which we have had for five years, and for which we had been unable to secure a companion," said an official.

"The coral snake is quite the most spectacular specimen we have ever seen here. About 18 inches long, it has vivid markings, in rings of white, black, and crimson. Unlike most snakes, its skin pattern does not camouflage it in its natural surroundings, but apparently serves as a warning to other animals that it should not be molested. Like the viper, it is extremely dangerous."

WHO'S WHO at the ZOO

Lost a parakeet?

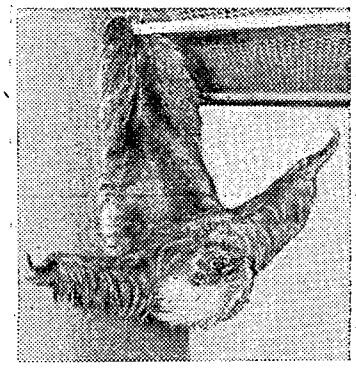
AWAITING a claimant at the Parrot House is a small multi-coloured bird which was recently handed in to the Gardens.

"For the past week or two the donor had seen this parakeet flying around in his garden, and then he managed to catch it," said the official. "He contacted the police, but no one had reported a missing bird. He toyed with the idea of releasing it again, but knowing that the parakeet would probably die if left out in the cold weather, he brought it to us.

"It is pretty obviously an escaped pet—quite a number of these colourful, and sometimes talkative, birds are sold in this country from pet stores. But this specimen is not very tame and may have spent some weeks at liberty.

"We shall be pleased to hand it over to anyone able to establish a claim to it. If not claimed within a month or so we shall put it into an aviary where we have four other parakeets of this species."

Just hanging about



Archibald, a two-toed sloth from South America, is one of the "new boys" at London Zoo. Archie is never in a hurry. He just likes hanging about.

Friendly little awantibo

LATEST newcomer at the South Mammal House is a golden-eyed, furry-coated little animal from West Africa. It is an awantibo, a rare and valuable member of the galago (or bush-baby) family, and it has come as a gift from Port Harcourt, Nigeria.

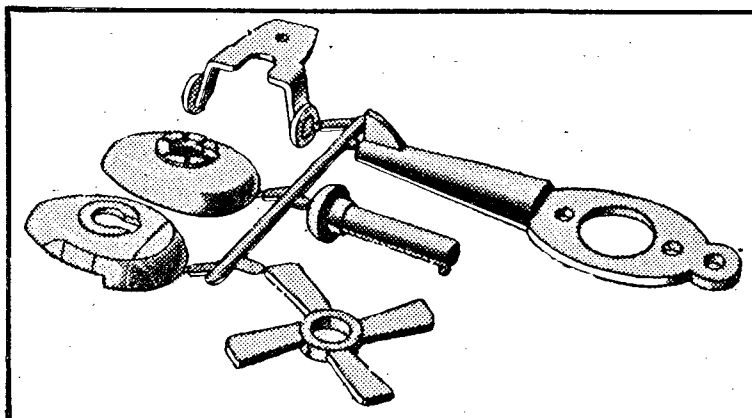
"The awantibo, a young male who goes by the name of 'Weegee,' had been kept for some time as a family pet," said an official. "It is the first of its kind we have been able to show for over two years and, owing to its previous human contacts, is so tame that it will make a splendid pet for our visitors to handle.

"Because of its pointed face, the awantibo is sometimes mistaken for a potto, but it is more lightly built. Moreover, its tail has practically disappeared.

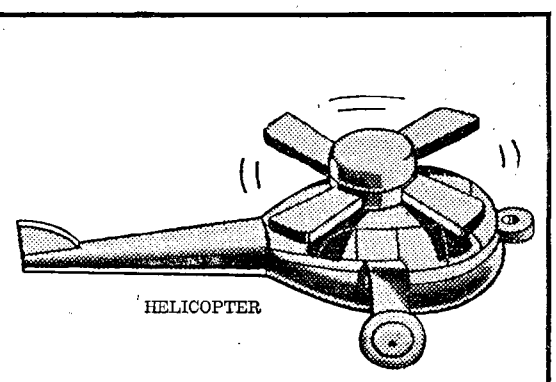
"Very few awantibos have ever been seen in this country and little is known about the animal's habits in the wild state. But it is mainly a fruit-eater and appears to do well here, when kept in the right conditions."

CRAVEN HILL

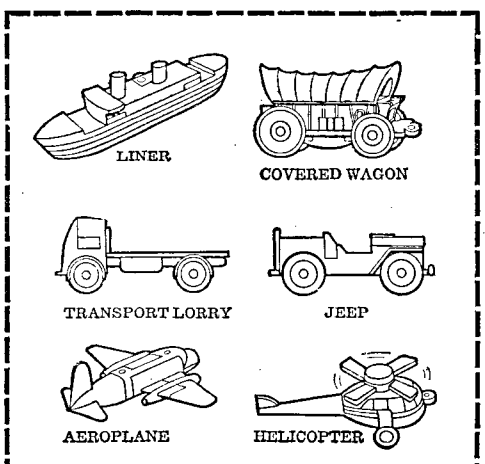
JIGTOYS ARE BACK AGAIN!



How does this



become this?



HERE ARE ALL SIX PUZZLES

That's the JIGTOY secret!

Here's another chance to collect these super puzzle models. There's a *free* Jigtoy in every specially marked packet of the two delicious Kellogg's cereals, *Frosties* and *Sugar Smacks*, now at your grocer's. There are six 3-D puzzles to collect—you can have hours of fun trying to put them together.



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PROGRAMMES and PEOPLE on TV and RADIO by Ernest Thomson

Juggler with two feet, four arms, and six clubs

A FAMOUS French circus—the Cirque Rancy—will be seen in a Eurovision broadcast direct from Lille on B.B.C. television this Wednesday.

The Rancy family have been known on the Continent since the days of the Napoleonic wars, when they were strolling players and entertainers. In 1856 they staged a spectacular show in Rouen—and the true circus emerged. Today they have their Big Top coloured green and white, with flags flying.

B.B.C. producer Derek Burrell-Davis will direct the broadcast from a mobile control room belonging to the French TV service.

A juggling act no one should miss is by Monsieur Karrey. He says it is done with "two feet, four arms, and six clubs."

The bill includes trapeze acts, a human puppet show, and a display by liberty horses.

NOW SEE THE TWELVE BEVERLEY SISTERS



Three smiles from the Beverley Sisters

MOST of us have seen and heard the three Beverley Sisters. Now we are to have twelve. It happens in B.B.C. television's *Friday Show* this week, when Producer Dennis Main Wilson will show viewers an interesting stunt.

Joy, Teddie, and Babs recently made a long-playing record called *The Enchanting Beverley Sisters,* in which each of them made four separate sound tracks of her voice. Blended together, they produce remarkably rich effect.

Several numbers from this disc will be sung during the show. To make the effect even more convincing, Dennis Main Wilson will turn four TV cameras on the girls simultaneously, superimposing the four pictures on the screen. If the trick works we shall see a dozen Beverleys.

This experiment has been tried before but only with one artist at a time.

You may remember Charlie Drake appearing as a one-man orchestra a few months ago.

LEARN HOW TO SWIM WITH NATALIE

NATALIE STEWARD, the brilliant young swimmer who won a bronze and a silver medal in the Rome Olympics, will be guest of honour in B.B.C. *Junior Sportsview* on 4th November. Natalie will be giving a demonstration in the Marshall Street Baths, London. Viewers will also see films of those two exciting races in Rome in which she won her two medals.

If Natalie makes it look attractively easy, why not take a swimming lesson on TV? Various swimming styles will be shown stroke by stroke in an instructional film included in the programme.

Cameras on the cliff-face

FILM cameras swinging dizzily on ropes alongside the cliff face were used for *Seabird Summer,* the *Look* programme on B.B.C. Television this Wednesday evening.

The pictures were taken by Christopher Mylne to give viewers close-up glimpses of puffins, guillemots, razorbills, fulmars, gulls and ravens on the bird sanctuary islands of Skomer and Skokholm, off the Pembrokeshire coast.

Mr. Mylne is recognised as one of the finest nature film photographers in Britain. His programme is the first to be screened by the B.B.C. under a new exclusive agreement with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

Putting you in the picture

CLUB FOR YOUNG MOVIE-MAKERS

GOOD news for all interested in movie-making. B.B.C. Junior TV is to start *Film Club,* a fortnightly programme which Leonard Chase will present on Wednesdays, the first on 9th November. The compère will be Alex MacIntosh, who, until recently, was a regular B.B.C. television announcer. He has just left the B.B.C. to become a free-lance. *Film Club,* he tells me, is his first job as a roving compère.

"A very interesting one, too," said Alex. "Still photography has always fascinated me and I must have taken miles of film in my time. Now I'm going to learn a lot about movie-making."

Though *Film Club* will cover both professional and amateur aspects, it will cater specially for viewers who take their own pictures.

Next Wednesday's programme will show movie cameras of many makes and prices now on the market, and the many sorts of equipment you can buy. Viewers will be shown the fundamental principles of the movie camera and how it works, with a demonstration of the early cinematograph cameras in operation.

Alex MacIntosh will have as his studio guests some of the boys who won a *News Chronicle* award with their brilliant home-made film, *Paper Chase,* which was seen recently in a late-night programme on B.B.C. television. On the professional side, there will be glimpses of Dirk Bogarde on the set during the shooting of *The Singer, Not The Song.*

Research for *Film Club* is being done by Tony Rose, editor of *Amateur Movie-Maker.* From time to time he will come to the studio to answer viewers' questions.

Fire over England

Thriller of the first Queen Elizabeth's Days

Fire Over England, the famous historical thriller by A. E. W. Mason, begins on B.B.C. Children's Hour next Friday in a radio adaptation by Nan Macdonald. The whole story seethes with plots and counter-plots in the grimly exciting days of the first Queen Elizabeth, a time which the author described as turbulent and troubled.

Leaving his schooldays behind him, young Robin Aubrey sets out to achieve his one ambition—to avenge his father's death at the hands of the Spanish Inquisition.



Scot Finch

It happens that news from Spain is badly wanted by Sir Francis Walsingham, Principal Secretary of State, a master of intrigue and once the friend of Robin's father. The path of these two cross more than once during the six episodes of this gripping serial. Carleton Hobbs plays Sir Francis.

Playing Robin is 19-year-old actor Scot Finch, who began his professional career in Northern Children's Hour. He is a clever linguist, speaking French, German, and Italian so fluently that he is helping just now as unofficial interpreter at Elstree Film Studios while working on the new Associated-British picture *Don't Bother To Knock.* Three of the leading actors are French, German and Italian. They find Scot Finch's presence very handy! So does Richard Todd, who is producing the film and also taking the leading role.

Decorations for Christmas

THE Christmas spirit makes its first entry into TV with Sam Williams and his Workshop on B.B.C. Junior TV next Monday. The theme is indoor decorations. Sam will show two types of paper-chain you can rig up quickly and easily, as well as a Star of Bethlehem.

Then Rudi de Sarrigon will demonstrate how to make an artificial Christmas tree, complete with a home-made angel at the top, which could hoodwink Father Christmas himself.

The Wedgwood family in Outer Space

Pathfinders in Space, the recent A.B.C. Sunday afternoon serial which took viewers to the Moon, is to have a still more exciting sequel. I hear that the next in the series, beginning in the first week in December, will send the now famous Wedgwood family to one of the planets.

Design experts of A.B.C. Television wish they could go on reconnaissance to Outer Space. If they could take photographs on Mars or Venus their job would be made very much easier.

Dad's promised me a

LOTT'S

CHEMISTRY SET

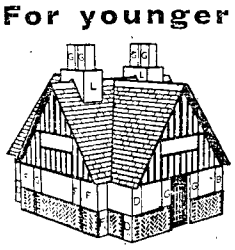
for Christmas!



It's just what I've always wanted. I'll be able to do *real* experiments with *real* apparatus and chemicals. It will help me with my chemistry at school too, and later I can easily get extra apparatus and spares to build up a complete home Lab. Roll on Christmas and this absolutely super present!

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Watching Mercury cross the Sun

BUT TAKE CARE OF YOUR EYES

LOOKING AT THE SKY WITH PATRICK MOORE

Of the planets in the Solar System, two—Mercury and Venus—are closer to the Sun than we are. Mercury moves round the Sun at an average distance of 36 million miles; Venus at 67 million; and the Earth 93 million.

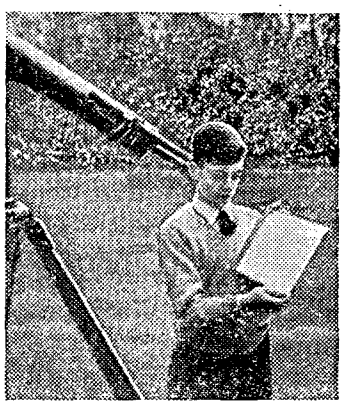
When Mercury or Venus lies exactly between the Sun and the Earth, the planet is seen as a black spot against the Sun's face. This is known as a *transit*. Unfortunately, transits do not happen very often, and Venus will not next be seen in front of the Sun until A.D. 2004. However, a transit of Mercury will occur on 7th November, and will be well worth watching.

Across the disc

Mercury is a small planet. It is only 3,100 miles in diameter, so that it is not a great deal larger than the Moon. It has practically no atmosphere, and is not easy to observe, so that we do not know a great deal about it.

As seen from London, Mercury will pass on to the Sun's face at 14.35 hours (2.35 p.m.). It will move very slowly across the disc, and the Sun will set before the transit is over.

Mercury is so small that it will not be visible to the naked eye during the transit, so that a telescope must be used. This means that great care must be taken.



To look directly at the Sun through any telescope, or even a pair of binoculars, is very dangerous. The full heat of the Sun will be concentrated on the observer's eye, and permanent blindness is the probable result.

There is only one sensible way to observe the Sun; by projection. First, put a cardboard or tin cap over the top of the telescope, so that no light can pass through. Then point the telescope at the Sun, by looking over the top of the tube, as though sighting a rifle. Next take off the tin cap, and hold a sheet of white paper or card behind the telescope, as the boy in the photograph is doing. The Sun's image will be projected on to the card, and you will be able to see the details without any difficulty at all.

This, then, is the golden rule: *Never look directly at the Sun through any telescope, even for a second.* I have met two people who have lost the sight of an eye in this way. The warning is really important.

If you project the Sun on to a white card, you will see some of the curious darkish areas which astronomers call sunspots. They appear black because they are less luminous than the surrounding surface; their temperatures are in the region of 4,000 degrees Centigrade, while the general surface of the Sun is at a temperature of 6,000 degrees Centigrade. They are not permanent, and after a few hours, days, or weeks a spot will disappear. During the last few years the Sun has been active, and great numbers of spots have been seen, many of them far larger than the Earth.

If you project the Sun from day to day, you will see that the spots are being carried very slowly across the solar face from one side to the other. This is because the Sun is spinning on its axis, taking nearly a month to complete one turn.

The moving spot

When Mercury passes in transit on 7th November, it will behave differently. It will show up as a small blackish disc, and if you watch it for ten minutes or so you will see that it is moving, whereas any spots which may happen to be visible will seem stationary. This is the best way to identify it.

Astronomers do not regard transits of Mercury as particularly important, and there is not a great deal to be learned from them, but they are interesting to watch, if only because they are rather unusual. If the skies are clear on the afternoon of 7th November, do your best to obtain the use of a telescope; project the Sun on to a white card, and see whether you can pick out the black dot. It will be 1970 before Mercury again crosses in front of the Sun.

Six haystacks in a train

A Derbyshire farmer, who decided to move to South Wales, chartered a special train from the local station. It was made up of a passenger coach for the family, and 20 goods wagons. Six of the wagons were for haystacks; others accounted for 35 sheep, 25 rams, six pigs, and a sow with five piglets, various tractors and other farm machinery.

The journey was made overnight and ended in time for the farmer and his family to have breakfast at their new home.

ANOTHER FASCINATING INSTALMENT!

MR. THERM'S TIME-ROCKET

BILL and Pat were almost too excited to speak as they got back in the Time Rocket with Mr. Therm after he had shown them the Carboniferous Age 250 million years ago!

"It's almost impossible to imagine that amount of time," said Bill.

"A million is long enough," agreed Pat, "but *250*!"

"What happened to all those funny creatures and plants?" asked Bill with interest.

Mr. Therm's answer to that was to press a switch which locked the doors of the Rocket. Then he took the controls.

"Watch!" he said.

There was a high-pitched whine as the booster motor started, then a scarcely-felt swoosh as the Time Rocket got under way.

"We're moving *forward* now, coming towards our own times," said Mr. Therm.

The children watched in amazement as the animals and plants they'd seen in the Carboniferous period gradually disappeared, and the giant ferns and mosses dwindled.

"Of course, all this took millions and millions of years," said Mr. Therm, smiling at their exclamations of surprise. Then he pointed down.

"D'you see that great sea down there?"

"Yes," chorused the children.

"That's England!" said Mr. Therm. "A great salt sea covered all the land right from what we call Lancashire to Devon."

Round the edges of this great sea fantastic, jagged-toothed monsters roamed.

"Those are dinosaurs—some of them are seventy feet long," explained Mr. Therm, "They inhabited the world for about 100,000 years."

Then, as Bill and Pat watched entranced, the waters began to recede, the land rose, and luxuriant vegetation flourished on the mud. Ferns and pines lent a very modern look to the great wastes.

"What on earth is that beast?" asked Pat.

They all looked.

It had the muzzle of a porpoise, the head of a lizard, the jaws and teeth of a crocodile, the backbone of a fish, the paddles of a whale, and the trunk and tail of an ordinary four-footed animal.

It moved slowly through the water by means of its four ungainly paddles.

"That's an icthyosaurus," said Mr. Therm, "a great monster thirty feet long, and it had jaws six feet long!"

"Ugh!" Pat shuddered.

"Look now," said Mr. Therm, "you can see coal being made!"

As they watched, they saw the gradual accumulation, over millions of years, of vegetation. As trees and plants died, they sank into swamps, and for millions of years this went on.

"If there hadn't been swamps," explained Mr. Therm, "the dead vegetation would just have decayed and disappeared."

The water gradually rose, and Bill and Pat watched enthralled as the vegetation was covered deeper and deeper by layers of sediment.

Deeper and deeper sank the vegetation, and Mr. Therm told them that slowly it turned to coal.

"You can see the outlines of trees millions of years old in coal mines to-day," said Mr. Therm. "And at the bottom of some seams there are tree roots, countless of millions of years old, still preserved in their original soil."

"So coal is really just trees and stuff squeezed together?" queried Bill.

Mr. Therm laughed.

"That's a very simple way of putting it," he said, "but you've got the idea. A coal seam probably represents only about a twentieth of the depth of the original vegetation."

"Oh, look," said Pat.

The great waters which covered so much of the earth were slowly receding, and the familiar shape of the world as we know it to-day gradually came into view.

Pat had been looking thoughtful for some minutes, and finally she came out with what had been worrying her.

"Mr. Therm—all these animals and plants we've seen that no longer exist—how do we know that they did live if we don't have a Time Rocket?"

"Fossils!" said Mr. Therm, so sternly that they all burst out laughing.

"No, seriously, millions of years ago, when all these animals and plants were covered by sediment—and we think it happened quickly—their soft parts naturally all decayed. But the harder parts, like the skeleton of a dinosaur, for example, can be preserved."

"What, in the sediment?" asked Bill.

"At first, yes. But then it gradually turned, under this tremendous pressure, into rock, and either the bones are preserved in their original state, or they changed into another substance, while still keeping their original shape and size. People are always discovering fossils. Especially in coal mines."

"How incredible," said Pat, "that there's this link with an animal that roamed the earth all that time ago."

"I know," smiled Mr. Therm, "and it's really a fascinating hobby."

"Look," shouted Bill eagerly, "who are those creatures there?"

In a small clearing, two strange creatures, hardly distinguishable from the animals around them, were gnawing away at some berries.

"That's Man," said Mr. Therm, "our ancestors."

"Oh, we're *back*!" said Pat.

"Hardly," smiled Mr. Therm, "say 10,000 years ago."

"Oh, very recent!" said Bill loftily.

"I say, Mr. Therm," said Pat, "when did people first find they could burn coal."

"I wondered when you'd ask that," twinkled Mr. Therm. "But I think we've seen enough for one week. We'll go for another trip on the Time Rocket next week and see how coal was first used."

Issued by the Gas Council

MORE NEXT WEEK!





...AND THE SUPER NEW COMPETITION!

If you rearrange these jumbled letters . . . S F I L O S . . . you will find they spell a word in the story above.

When you have discovered what it is, explain in your own way (on a postcard, please, and in not more than fifty words!) what you think this word has to do with gas.

Add your full name, address and age, then post the card to:

Mr. Therm's Time Rocket Competition No. 1, Children's Newspaper, 3 Pilgrim Street, London, E.C.4 (Comp.).

Mr. Therm will award £2 2s. Book Tokens for the three best entries he receives by Friday, 4th November; neatness and age will be taken into account in the judging.

GAS IS GREAT IN TODAY'S JET AGE!

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GRAND NEW BOOKS TO READ

LOOK! I'VE GOT A NEW BURKE BOOK!



It's THE GIRLS' BOOK OF HORSES AND RIDING by Jennifer and Dorian Williams, the famous showjumpers. I think it's absolutely marvellous. They tell us about the lives of all sorts of horses. Circus horses. Police horses. Ceremonial and showjumping horses. And the ordinary every-day working horse, too. And just to make things perfect, there's a Gallery of Famous Horses and Riders. And lots of exciting photographs, too. Ask if *you* can have this book. It costs 12s 6d And it's jolly well worth it.

B

TWENTY PIES AT ONE SITTING

Jim Starling and the Colonel, by E. W. Hildick (Heinemann, 10s. 6d.)

YOUNG people today are soft and pampered—that is the view held by Colonel Splitt-Statham and expounded by him on Speech Day at the Cement Street Secondary Modern School. Jim sets out to prove him wrong. To do so he has to run four miles in 15 minutes, swim a mile in half an hour, eat twenty pies at one sitting, climb the Town Hall clock tower, juggle with three eggs, and cycle five miles in 20 minutes. There is a catch in nearly every one of these deeds, but Jim always discovers it—and provides an amusing and most readable story.

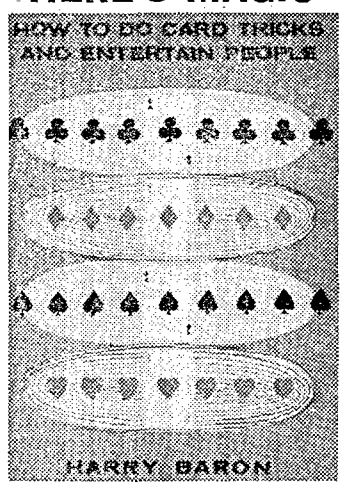
MYSTERY AT THE CASTLE

The Tullington Film-makers, by Elisabeth Beresford (Max Parrish, 10s. 6d.)

"WILL you search for my great grandpapa?" asked the middle-aged American tenant of Tullington Castle. That was a strange enough request, but Peter and Vicky Lofts came across many strange and sinister happenings before they finally traced the full details of the American's ancestor. And the film they helped to make turns out very differently from the one they embarked on.

A first-rate mystery yarn!

HERE'S MAGIC



A book that will enable clever amateur conjurors to entertain and mystify their friends. Containing 92 photographs and drawings, it is published by Nicholas Kaye at 15s.

BOYS IN SPACE

A Warning to Earth, by John Townsend (Chatto & Windus, 12s. 6d.)

TOM and Andy started on their journey into Space at such short notice that they only had time to scribble a hasty note to their Mum, telling her they had gone to the Moon. It would all have been exciting enough even without the intervention of the inhabitants of the planet Venus, who intended to occupy the Moon themselves, and resented the intruders from Earth.

Boys who hope one day to fly in a rocket-ship will be absorbed by this preview of the thrills of Space exploration.

FOREVER WILLIAM

William—the Explorer, by Richmal Crompton (Newnes, 10s. 6d.)

ANOTHER of the boys who never grow up is the ageless William, who has been delighting readers for a great number of years. In this 32nd book of his adventures the indomitable lad is still moving with the times, and there are such things as television and the Abominable Snowman to prove it.

IN OLD CHESHIRE

The Weirdstone of Brisingamen, by Alan Garner (Collins, 12s. 6d.)

SUSAN had an antique crystal on her charm bracelet, and it proved to have magical qualities when she and her brother went to stay at a farmhouse in Cheshire. This is a most unusual tale, based on local folk-lore, and it gives an attractive picture of the countryside around Alderley Edge, which the author knows so intimately.

KIDNAPPED

Sophie and the Countess, by Mary Cathcart Borer (Harrap, 9s. 6d.)

THE story opens on Brighton beach in the year 1860, and tells of the astonishing experiences of Sophie and her brother Dick, who are kidnapped by a cruel showman. An exciting story with a highly original plot.

SOLDIER BOY

Drum and Trumpet Sound! by Sutherland Ross (Hodder & Stoughton, (12s. 6d.)

IN the tragic times when Englishmen's loyalties were divided between King and Parliament even boys were able to take part in the fighting. This story tells of the adventures of young Simon, a Puritan lad whose own affairs were so deeply involved in the war. The climax, the siege of Colchester, is the most thrilling part of a thrilling book.

THE RUNAWAY

The Search For Mary, by Elisabeth Sheppard-Jones (Nelson, 12s. 6d.)

IN a fit of unhappiness, ten-year-old Mary ran away to London. Her sister Jane was determined to find her, and set off with her friend Alan. In London their first find was a stray dog which took Jane's fancy, and from that moment they had the mongrel Marilyn to help—and hinder—the search. Clues led to Stratford-on-Avon and Cardiff, but at last Mary was found safe and well, her troubles smoothed away.

SWEDISH FARM FAMILY

Grandmother's Journey, by Edith Unnerstad (Michael Joseph, 12s. 6d.)

HERE is a story, based on fact, that is all about places and people unfamiliar to most of us. Translated from the Swedish, it tells of a farming family, at the turn of the century, who are down on their luck.

This is where Grandmother steps in. She has faced misfortune before and now says that the only thing to do is for them all to make a journey over the sea to Finland and Russia. There they will earn a living with their special skill in making watch-chains, bracelets, and other trinkets out of hair.

Young Anders, her grandson, is one of the party on the journey across the Baltic. He watches wild Tartar horsemen at their amazing feats and gets mixed up with Russian police. But in the end they make enough to be able to return to their own lovely countryside and start life there all over again.

RATTLING GOOD YARN

The Far Frontier, by William O. Steele (Macmillan, 12s. 6d.)

THE wild hills and forests of the Tennessee valley make a lively background for a yarn of adventure for two in hostile Indian country. The year is 1791, just after the War of Independence. The adventurers are young Tobe, brought up among the backwoodsmen and very handy with a muzzle-loader, and an eccentric naturalist called Mr. Twistletree. Tobe is apprenticed to the old man for a specimen-gathering expedition.

The story is based on contemporary diaries, and in these days of scientific exploration, with every modern aid, it is worth while reading what the old pioneers cheerfully undertook to lay the basis of our present knowledge.

And if anyone wants to know just what it is like to be bitten by a rattlesnake, this is just the book.

CAPTAIN GARRY

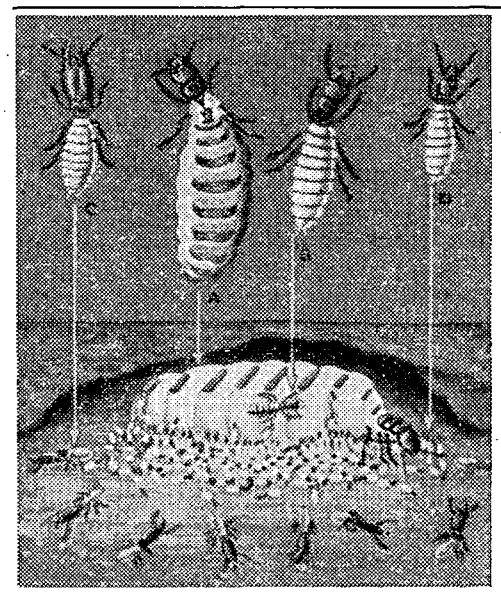
Garry Halliday and the Disappearing Diamonds, by Justin Blake (Faber, 8s. 6d.)

THERE can be few boys who are not already acquainted with Captain Halliday, the television airline pilot. Here is one of his most exciting adventures, as told by Bill Dodds, his co-pilot. They succeed in foiling a diamond racket, but in the end that mysterious criminal the Voice manages to get away—to begin plotting the next villainy.

SCHOOL PRODUCTION

Cressida and the Opera, by Paul Harris (Dent, 12s. 6d.)

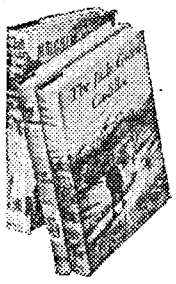
MUSICAL instruments are badly needed for the orchestra of Pinehill High School for Girls, and many are the ideas for raising the money. Cressida's suggestion seems to be the best: to join with the boys' Grammar School in presenting a Gilbert and Sullivan opera. The idea meets with general approval, but when it comes to putting it into effect, well, *H.M.S. Pinafore* nearly founders!



PAGEANT OF NATURE

A nest of white ants with enlarged pictures (left to right) of the four kinds—soldier, Queen, King, and worker. One of the hundreds of brilliant drawings, all in full-colour, in LIFE AND ITS MARVELS, a pictorial treasury of knowledge (Odhams Press, 30s.).

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Recent and forthcoming selections—at only 4s. to members—include BIGGLES AT WORLD'S END by W. E. Johns (Published at 8s. 6d.) ; MYSTERY MINE by Malcolm Saville (10s. 6d.) ; THE BORROWERS AFLOAT by Mary Norton (12s. 6d.) ; CARLOTTI TAKES THE WHEEL by Mike Hawthorn (10s. 6d.) ; FRIDAY'S TUNNEL by John Verney (12s. 6d.) ; PRIZE PONY by Kathleen Mackenzie (10s. 6d.). *All wonderful value* !

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BY AN AUTUMN FIRE

BEST-KEPT VILLAGE

Changes at Dowbiggins, by Elfrida Vipont (Lutterworth, 10s. 6d.)

HILDERSTONE is a quiet little village but, as readers of the Dowbiggins stories will know, the Conyers children usually find plenty of excitement there. This time the excitement starts when young Dabs decides to enlist the other children to win the Best Kept Village Competition. And the excitement never flags in this delightful story of village life.

PONY FARM

The Snow Ponies, by Ursula Bruns (University of London Press, 15s.)

THE two sisters lived on a stud farm in north-west Germany where Icelandic and Shetland ponies were reared. They were greatly excited on getting news that their cousin, 14-year-old Ethelbert, was coming to stay with them, for they imagined him to be a young Viking who would help to grapple with the mettlesome ponies. But, alas, Ethelbert turned out to be a pale, elegant lad who looked anything but a Viking—and, in fact, was not too fond of ponies. In time the three youngsters came to terms with one another, for Ethelbert proved to be tougher than he looked.

RAID ON THE COAST

The Bells of Rye, by Richard Church (Heinemann, 12s. 6d.)

IN the 14th century people on our south-eastern shores were constantly on the watch for French raiders. But one night a French and Spanish fleet sailed into Rye, one of the Cinque Ports, set fire to the town and carried off the church bells. How 13-year-old John Finch played a man's part in the avenging expedition to recover the bells is told in this thrilling, well-written story by a famous author.

HEROES ALL



A graphic picture of Major Everest, pilot of the Bell X-1 rocket plane, the first aircraft to break through the sound barrier. It is one of the many illustrations, including several in colour, in THE WONDER BOOK OF ADVENTURE (Ward Lock, 15s.), a book packed with thrilling true-life stories of extreme heroism.

MEXICAN BOY



One of the delightful drawings by Mel Silverman in THE TWO UNCLES OF PABLO, by Harry Behn (Macmillan, 10s. 6d.), an appealing story, beautifully written, of a nine-year-old Mexican boy.

FAMILY HOLIDAY

River Camp, by W. M. Levick (Dent, 12s. 6d.)

A FAMILY camp can be great fun, and if the family is about fifty strong the opportunities for enjoyment are endless. Here the relations are gathered together from all parts of South Africa, under canvas on the bank of a river, with glorious bathing, boating, and fishing. The youngsters, of course, have the time of their lives, and the account of their adventures gives a fascinating picture of life in the sunny veld country.

KNAVERY IN HONG KONG

Lim of Hong Kong, by Conon Fraser (Blackie, 10s. 6d.)

AMONG the seething masses in Hong Kong there are always shady people; and to deal with them there are the Hong Kong police, the Chinese detectives, who know every evil alley in the Colony. This book contains eleven stories, each recounting a battle of wits. The stories are fictional, but that the background is true to life is emphasised in a foreword by Mr. A. C. Maxwell, former Commissioner of Police in Hong Kong.

FACE AT THE WINDOW

The Deans and Mr. Popple, by Kathleen Fidler (Lutterworth, 7s. 6d.)

A HOST of readers already know that even the most ordinary activities of the Dean children and their friends lead to adventure. This time they set out to do a good turn for a poor piano-tuner by distributing cards from door to door. At one mysterious house there is no answer, but a strange face appears at a window and a foreign coin falls at their feet. Here indeed is a puzzle to challenge the resourceful young members of the Society for Good Friendship.

MYSTERY ON THE MUDFLATS

Shadows on the Mud, by Captain Frank Knight (Macmillan, 13s. 6d.)

BRENDA and Derek save two boys trapped on a mudflat, but are rewarded only with scowls. Learning that the boys, "Bags" and "Barmy," are from the nearby approved school, Brenda sets out to win their confidence. There comes the day, however, when the boathouse is broken into and articles are stolen; then a beautiful motor-launch is coated in oily mud; and even the boat owned by Brenda and her brother is damaged. Suspicion naturally falls on the two boys, but Brenda has her own ideas on the matter, and puts them into practice . . .

HORSEBACK HOLIDAY

Nigel Rides Away, by Kathleen Mackenzie (Evans Brothers, 10s. 6d.)

SMALL, shy, and hopeless at any kind of sport except riding, orphaned Nigel lives with relations and is most unhappy; but he comes into his own when he manages to slip away from them all and go off for a riding and camping holiday with two friends. Adventures come their way thick and fast, for they get themselves mixed up in the affairs of an eloping heiress and a fake archaeologist. This is an exciting yarn which will appeal to all who are, as Nigel would say, "out-of-door-y sort of people."

Other recommended books

NAME THIS INSECT, by Eric Fitch Daglish, a fully illustrated book which will enable you to identify over 700 species of British butterflies, moths, beetles, earwigs, and other "creepy crawlies" (Dent, 21s.)

THE WONDER BOOK DICTIONARY, a big, handsome book defining 25,000 words and containing over 750 illustrations, many in colour (Ward Lock, 30s.)

THE BOY'S BOOK OF THINGS TO DO, edited by David Shaw, with carpentry, modelling, household tips, and so on (Ward Lock, 15s.)

DANCING FOR FUN, by Hugh Carter, a Popular Book (Faber, 12s. 6d.)

STIRRING STORIES FOR BOYS and STIRRING STORIES FOR GIRLS, edited by Eric Duthie (Odhams, 9s. 6d. each)

LIFE IN THE AQUARIUM, by Philip Barker, a handy guide with scores of drawings (Bell, 15s.)

EVERYDAY MACHINES, by Herman Schneider, simple explanation, with drawings, of the way familiar things work, from ball-point pens to washing machines (Brockhampton Press, 12s. 6d.)

THE OXFORD BOOK OF WILD FLOWERS, illustrations by B. E. Nicholson, text by S. Ary and M. Gregory, a superbly illustrated guide to the wild flowers of Britain (Oxford University Press, 30s.)

NEEDLECRAFT FOR JUNIORS, by A. V. White, various stitches, with instructions on making simple articles and clothes. Hundreds of drawings (Routledge and Kegan Paul, 18s.)

THE BOYS' BOOK OF WORLD RAILWAYS, by Ernest F. Carter; and THE BOYS' BOOK OF SAILING, by Gilbert Hackforth-Jones (Burke, 10s. 6d. each)

INSTRUCTIONS IN CHEMISTRY, by R. H. Warring, simple and safe experiments (Museum Press, 12s. 6d.)



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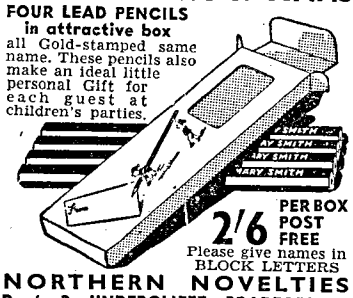
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FOR BOYS

If you read the *Hunter Hawk-Skyway Detective* books then you will want the new one (No. 6) *THE SECRET WEAPON* in which Hunter Hawk and his pal Mike are called in to track down a gang of international criminals. Other books are: 1. *OUTLAWS OF THE AIR.* 2. *ATOM 'PLANE MYSTERY.* 3. *SMUGGLERS OF THE SKIES.* 4. *COMMANDOS OF THE CLOUDS.* 5. *COMET ROUND THE WORLD.* By Eric Leyland and T. E. Scott-Chard (of B.O.A.C.), 7s. 6d. Also by Eric Leyland is *FOR VALOUR* the story of the Victoria Cross. 15s. Those who like outdoor life will enjoy Ernest Thompson Seton's *famous* book—*TWO LITTLE SAVAGES*—the adventures of two boys who lived as Indians and what they learned. 200 drawings, 25s.

FOR GIRLS

All girls will enjoy reading about the lovable character Jennifer and her brothers and sisters who live on a farm in Illinois. The new book, number 3 in the series *THE JENNIFER PRIZE*, tells how Jennifer tried to win herself a pet—a calf, a colt, or a lamb, which would it be? Other titles are: 1. *THE JENNIFER WISH.* 2. *THE JENNIFER GIFT.* Written and illustrated by Eunice Young Smith, 15s. A collection of thirty stirring and inspiring stories by Sara Jenkins are found in *YOUNG PEOPLE OF THE BIBLE*, which is illustrated with full-page drawings by Sam Patrick, showing what young people of Bible times may have looked like as suggested by their characters. 16s.

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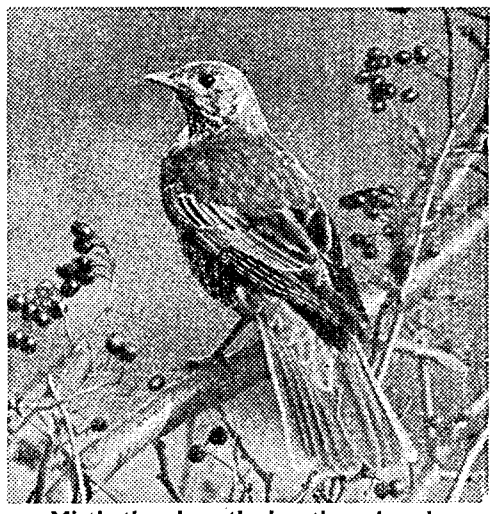
In the countryside in November

It was the poet Keats who described Autumn as the "season of mists and mellow fruitfulness." But by the time we reach November the mists are a more prominent feature of the season than the fruitfulness. For by the end of October all the harvest both of fruit and of grain, should have been garnered in, while the worst of the Winter's fogs often come at the end of November and in early December.

There is one harvest, however, that is being actively gathered in November, and that is the harvest of wild fruits, especially hips and haws, on which the birds are busily feeding. Hips are the fruits of the wild roses, including the dog rose. Haws are the small, dull-red, round fruit of the hawthorn, also called whitethorn and quickthorn.

Hips are bright vermilion red, and shaped like a spindle, fat in the middle but narrowed at each end. They are rich in vitamin C, and during the war schoolchildren all over the country used to gather them so that this vitamin could be extracted and made available. At that time our national diet was much restricted, largely because enemy submarines were sinking the ships which brought us our food.

Thrushes of all kinds delight to feed on both hips and haws. Not only our resident blackbirds, song thrushes and mistle-thrushes, but also the Winter visitors from northern Europe, the fieldfare and redwing about which I wrote a few weeks ago.



Mistle-thrush on the hawthorn bough

November sees the countryside and the seashore filling up with other Winter bird visitors. Some of these visitors—like the brambling, golden-eye and scaup duck—never, or hardly ever, breed in the British Isles; others like the hooded crow, siskin, and goosander, breed only in Scotland, but in Winter are seen also in the south; and still more, like the rook, skylark, chaffinch, and robin, are residents all over Britain as well as Winter visitors from the Continent.

November also continues the Autumn revival of bird song that began in October. Song thrushes and skylarks, especially, can often be heard singing on fine and fairly warm November days. Robins, of course, sing right through the Winter, and hedge-sparrows and wrens also utter occasional bursts of song during this month.

It is only the most exceptional butterfly that is still on the wing in November—an occasional Red Admiral or Small Tortoiseshell on a really warm, sunny day at the beginning of the month. There are, however, several kinds of moth that do not normally emerge until November.

These include the Winter Moth, whose females are wingless, so it is only the males which can be seen fluttering around street lamps on November evenings. The Winter Moth caterpillar is a geometer (earth-measurer)—it moves in a series of loops as if measuring the ground. It is green, with white and yellow stripes, and can be a serious pest on fruit trees in May and June.

The November Moth is another dull grey-brown geometer which flies at this time of year. Its caterpillar is also green, with a purplish-red stripe, or sometimes a row of purplish-red spots, down its back. It also feeds on the foliage of a good many different kinds of tree, such as hawthorn, oak and sallow, but does not seem ever to reach pest proportions, like the Winter Moth.

RICHARD FITTER

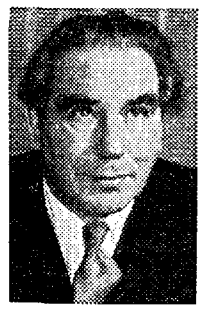
ON RECORD

New discs to note

STRAVINSKY: *Petroushka* on Mercury MMA11105. Antal Dorati conducts the Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra. This recording of the whole score will be of great interest to those who know the story of the ballet. There are several pieces here which are not included in most recordings of the work, besides the familiar *Nursemaids' Dance* and Petroushka's Theme. (LP. 38s. 1½d.)

FRANKIE VAUGHAN: *Milord* on Philips PB1066. This is a very catchy tune which has been a big success on the Continent. But another reason for buying the disc is that Frankie is giving the National Association of Boys' Clubs all the royalties from it. There is a competition connected with it, too, which all Boys' Club members have a chance of winning. Local club leaders have the details. (45. 6s. 4d.)

SIR DONALD WOLFIT: *Treasure Island* on HMV 7EG104. Here is another of the very good issues from the HMV Junior Record Club. Sir Donald makes a rumbustious Long John Silver and is in fine voice in his song, *Pieces of Eight*. The well-loved story is splendidly told, and strongly acted. (EP. 10s. 7½d.)



SIR MALCOLM SARGENT: *The Instruments of the Orchestra* on Decca LXT5573. This is the perfect recording for anyone who wants to learn something about the modern symphony orchestra and the different instruments used in it. In all, 21 different instruments are demonstrated, with a commentary from Sir Malcolm, and a well-produced booklet is given with the record. (LP. 38s. 1½d.)



GEORGE SHEARING: *Honeysuckle Rose* and *East Of The Sun* on Capitol 45CL15157. The blind pianist George Shearing, who was born in London, has made a name for himself in America. His quietly distinctive style will keep him a favourite for many years to come. On this disc he has chosen two old songs which never fail to sound fresh and interesting. (45. 6s. 4d.)

TOMMY KINSMAN: *Holiday For Dancers* on Fontana TFL5105. The Tommy Kinsman Orchestra is always a great favourite with dancers. This month he looks to the Continent and chooses a score of tunes from Europe to provide music which would be ideal for Christmas parties. (LP. 35s. 9½d.)

HERO OF QUEBEC—the story of General James Wolfe (7)



THE FORTRESS OF LOUISBOURG IS GOING TO PROVE A TOUGH NUT TO CRACK. SEE NEXT WEEK'S INSTALMENT

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An exciting new adventure aboard the *Mirelda*

THE CONWAYS TAKE COVER

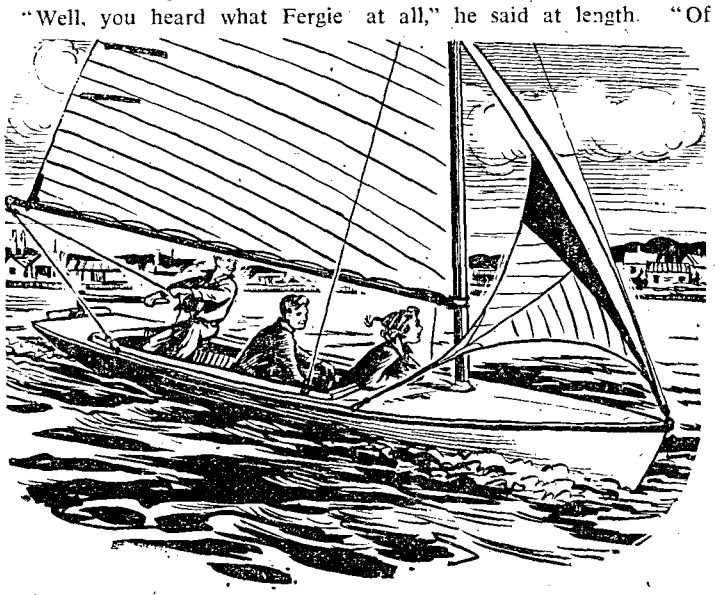
by Geoffrey Morgan

At Ferguson's boatyard, where Mirelda *is undergoing repair, the Conways tell their friend Fergie that Dr. Bredon, owner of Gullmarsh Island, is to salvage special equipment from his sunken aircraft which crashed that morning off the island. Fergie is puzzled by the news because a few days earlier he had a lift in a van delivering diving gear to Gullmarsh, and he wonders why Bredon ordered this before needing it. He couldn't have known his plane would crash in the river, but Jerry is not so sure, and reminds Fergie that the pilot was wearing a life-jacket . . .*

4. Sailing into mystery

"You've sure got a thing about that life-jacket, Jerry!" Jane smiled tolerantly at her cousin, and then looked up at Fergie, who was staring down river towards Gullmarsh Island, his blue eyes narrowed against the sun glare, his mouth set in a grim line.

"Well, you heard what Fergie said," Jerry told her curtly. "The life-jacket confirms it. That and the fact that skin-diving gear was already ordered suggests that it's not just an ordinary case of an accidental crash."



With Fergie at the helm, *Whisper* was bearing down on the island.

"But aren't you forgetting," Jane returned defensively, "that Dr. Bredon said he had two skin-divers in his team—marine biologists, I think he called them. They've got to have frogman's outfits. Maybe the van was delivering replacement cylinders for one of them."

"The whole business just doesn't make sense to me," Fergie said at length, dragging his gaze from the river to focus on the cousins. "Let's look at it this way, your way, Jerry. Let's suppose the crash wasn't an accident, that the pilot put the plane down in the river just off the island on some plan of Bredon's who was all ready to salvage it—or its cargo. That's the sort of picture you've built up, Jerry, isn't it?"

"Well—yes."

"Right," Fergie nodded. "So we both suspect that Bredon planned the sinking of his own plane in order to salvage his valuable equipment." He spread his hands in a helpless gesture. "Doesn't make sense, does it? What on earth would he do such a crazy thing for? What's the object?"

"They're the sixty-four thousand dollar questions," Jane murmured.

"And I've never suggested I know the answers," Jerry admitted calmly. "I've just got the feeling that there's something queer going on." He looked at their friend. "What d'you know about Bredon and his team?"

Fergie scratched the tip of his nose and looked as if he were thinking hard.

"Never heard much about them at all," he said at length. "Of course, there was the usual bit of gossip when the place was bought about two months ago. The locals wondered who would go to the expense of having the cottage restored, and who'd be mad enough to buy a few isolated, marshy acres; but when they discovered it was a naturalist chap, they understood, and stopped worrying. He's kept himself to himself pretty well, doesn't trouble anybody; in fact, he's too far away to be a nuisance, if he is the nuisance type. He hasn't even been up to the yard here for any boat gear."

"He said he'd made a landing-strip at the back of the house," Jane reminded them. "Have you ever seen the plane?"

"Yes. Two or three times. That caused a bit of a stir, too, at first. But when we heard that it was his means of going between here and his base in North Wales, it was soon taken for granted."

"Have you ever been on Gullmarsh, Fergie?" Jerry asked.

"Several times, but not since Dr. Bredon took over. You know there's nothing really there to go for—only wildfowl during Winter. I've always landed from the boat, except once when I biked it. Wouldn't recommend the road." He grinned at the recollection of his journey. "It's about six miles from the main road; you turn off alongside Reckit Wood. The surface isn't too bad as far as the bridge over Stavely Creek, but after that it's only a dirt track full of pot-holes."

Tough character

"Bit tough on his car," suggested Jane.

"He uses a Land Rover," Fergie corrected her. "He'll need four-wheel drive come Winter."

"And you haven't had any dealings with him at all?" Jerry queried. "So you've no idea what kind of character he is?"

"I've seen him a couple of times in the Land Rover in Stanbridge, but I've never spoken to him. Never given him any thought, even when I heard about the diving gear—until——" he smiled grimly. "Until you mentioned what happened this morning. Now I can't stop thinking."

At this point in the discussion Amos appeared and as he stepped out of the hatch and waved a greeting to Fergie, the three stopped talking and moved aft to join him.

Amos had decided to leave for London that afternoon and was going ashore to arrange transport to Stanbridge railway station. This reminded Jerry of his suggestion that Fergie should move over to *Mirelda* for the two days the skipper was away, an invitation Fergie was quick to accept.

"I'll just slip home and get my sailing clobber," he added with a grin. "I take it you're after sailing *Whisper*!"

"To Gullmarsh Island"

Jane smiled, glancing towards the smart, varnished dinghy moored near the quay.

"The sooner the better!" she said with feeling. "There's a breeze in the air at last!"

"Just right for a fine beat down river with the tide," Jerry chuckled, and added significantly: "To Gullmarsh Island."

Amos failed to appreciate the significance. He smiled and stepped to the rail, pausing at the top of the ladder with a more solemn look in his eyes.

Continued on page 10

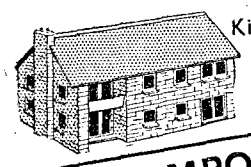


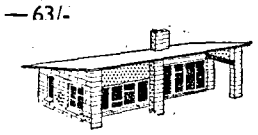
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WORLD OF STAMPS

Changing fortunes in South Africa

ALTHOUGH the Union of South Africa was formed in May, 1910, five months passed before the first Union stamp was issued. During that period the four colonies which formed the Union—the Cape of Good Hope, the Transvaal, the Orange Free State, and Natal—continued to use their own stamps.

Then, just 50 years ago this week, the long-awaited Union stamp appeared. Deep blue in



colour, it was the first to be issued in the reign of King George V.

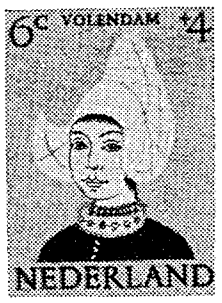
Round the King's portrait were grouped the badges of the four colonies. The inscription "Union of South Africa" in Afrikaans as well as English was a reminder that the Dominion united Boers and Britons.

Now, half a century after the founding of the Union, the people of South Africa face a prospect of vast change. By vote last month, white South Africans decided by a narrow majority that their country shall become a republic.

Another big change, though far less important, will come on 14th February next year, when South Africa will change its currency from pounds, shillings, and pence to rands (worth 10s.) and cents.

New stamps are already being prepared for issue in the decimal currency. South-West Africa, the lonely South Atlantic island of Tristan da Cunha, and the three British territories of Basutoland, Bechuanaland, and Swaziland all use South African currency, so that new stamps will also have to be issued there.

NEW stamps are to be issued this month in Holland, the country from which the Boer settlers of South Africa originally came. Their designs show portraits of children wearing the picturesque costumes of towns on the Zuider Zee. The example pictured here shows the costume of Volendam.



Each stamp is printed in five colours and carries an extra premium above its face value. Money raised by sales of the stamps will go to various funds for helping poor Dutch children.

YOU will recognise an even more familiar costume on a large stamp issued last week in Denmark. It is that of the Girl Guides.

The stamp portrays Queen Ingrid of Denmark and celebrates her 25th anniversary as a Girl Guide. Queen Ingrid, who was a



Swedish princess, has also been celebrating her Silver Wedding this year, for it is 25 years since she was married to Crown Prince Frederick, now the King of Denmark.

Like the new Dutch series, this Danish stamp has a charity premium. It is in aid of the "Pigespejderne," the Danish Scouts and Guides Fund for sick and needy children. C. W. HILL

Two faces



The famous clock-face of Westminster's Big Ben reflected in one of this Autumn's big puddles in Parliament Square.

ANOTHER LOCH FOR SCOTLAND

A new loch is being formed in the upper part of Glen Nevis, in the shadow of Britain's highest mountain, Ben Nevis (4,406 feet). It will be one result of a £4,000,000 plan to harness local water-power.

The new scheme, devised by the North of Scotland Hydro-Electric Board, will feed 82 million units of electricity into the national grid. Much of this will be relayed to England.

THE CONWAYS TAKE COVER

Continued from page 9

"My usual warnings," he said, "when I'm not within hailing distance. Don't sail without your buoyancy clothes, don't take risks—and keep out of trouble!"

Less than an hour later Fergie and the Conways were tacking *Whisper* across the river against a smart breeze on their way down to Gullmarsh Island. Fergie was at the helm, Jane crouched for'ard, her arms over the deep coaming, watching the luff of the jib, while Jerry squatted against the centre-board housing ready to raise the plate should Fergie run too close in to the mudbanks uncovering on either side as the tide ebbed.

But Fergie knew the deep water channel as well as he knew the road to Potter's Quay, and as they sailed from side to side he brought *Whisper* round on each new tack before the plate could touch. With the tide in their favour, but running against the wind, the water was choppy, and every now and then *Whisper's* bow dived into a curling wave that flung its broken cap across her foredeck in a shower of spray.

It was an exhilarating sail, and so immersed in the spell of it were they that it was not until they were bearing down on the island that they realised Dr. Bredon and his team were already diving over the wrecked plane.

The launch was moored near the wreck marker, the impromptu float having been changed for a canvas-covered cork buoy. The doctor was leaning over the coaming, facing the shore, close to a block rigged over the side through which a thick line descended into the water. One of his team turned a winch rigged amidships to which the end of the line was attached. Near the block a shot rope went straight down into the water.

"They haven't lost much time," announced Jane as they sailed by.

"No," agreed Jerry, staring absently over the launch to the shore.

Dr. Bredon glanced round, but if he recognised them, he gave no sign, and rudely ignored Fergie's friendly wave.

"It's only ordinary politeness to return a greeting," Fergie muttered.

Jerry said nothing, but continued to look back when they had left the launch astern. At that moment an object broke surface on the end of the rope and they saw it was a sling containing what appeared to be a metal case. It was hauled into the launch, and soon afterwards a frogman bobbed up alongside the shot rope.

Jerry leaned forward, staring at Fergie. His face twitched with excitement.

"Have you got a grapnel?" he asked.

Fergie stared back in surprise.

"Why—yes. There's a pretty hefty grappling hook at the yard."

"Then how about sailing back here tonight and using it?"

"What's the idea?" Fergie asked.

"I don't think Dr. Bredon's working on the plane," Jerry said calmly. "I think there's something else down there . . ."

To be continued

10 NEW B.C. PICTORIALS

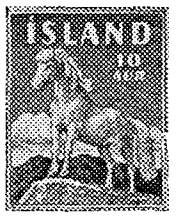


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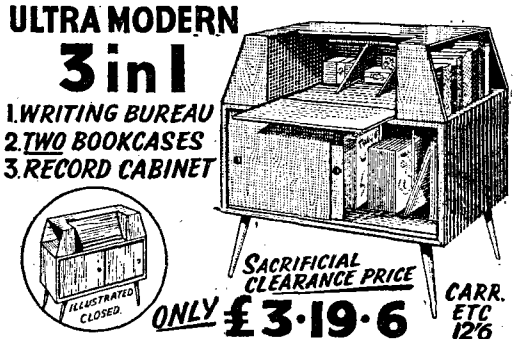
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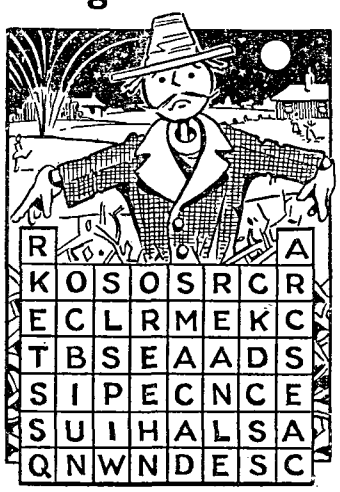
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PUZZLE PARADE

The glorious Fifth



START with the letter in the top left-hand corner and move to each square, in any direction, to form the names of six types of fireworks.

Crockett's Rocket

CRIED a crazy old fellow named Crockett,
"I've invented a quick-firing rocket."
But he suffered a fright, when his words were proved right.
For it went off at once—in his pocket.

MIND YOUR PET IN FIREWORK TIME

SAM and Suzy read this warning:
Now that fireworks are about
Be quite sure that you remember,
Not to let your pets go out.
Animals are scared of noises,
If they can, they run away.
So be sure you keep them safely
In the house so they can't stray.

WHERE ARE THEY?

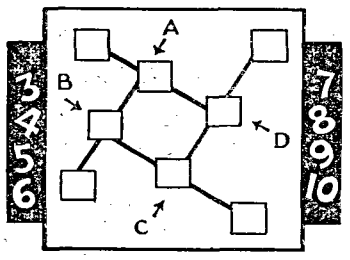
In which capital cities would you find the following buildings?

THE Louvre; the Pentagon; the Vatican; the Parthenon; the Kremlin; the Royal Albert Hall.

With a bang

MY first is in cradle and also in cot,
My second's in warm but not in hot.
My third is in barley and also in wheat,
My fourth is in welcome but not in greet.
My fifth is in key and also in lock,
My sixth is in shoe but not in sock.
My seventh's in warbled but not in sang—
My whole is a firework that bursts with a bang!

All ways the same



CAN you arrange the figures shown in white, in such a way that when put in the squares each line, when read downward and across, will total 18?

THREE'S COMPANY

In this word puzzle (a) is a clue to a three-letter word which, with another letter added, gives the answer to (b). A further letter is added to make a five-letter answer to clue (c). Example: fee, feet, fleet.

Answers are given below

1. (a) Farmyard animal.
 (b) Large black bird.
 (c) Many people together.
2. (a) Relatives.
 (b) Covers the flesh.
 (c) Flock of wild geese.
3. (a) To fix up.
 (b) Kind of sailing ship.
 (c) Fetch hither.
4. (a) Owned by Noah.
 (b) Listen carefully.
 (c) Dangerous fish.
5. (a) To put in a tin.
 (b) Look over intently.
 (c) Barely sufficient.
6. (a) Came face to face.
 (b) To allot punishment.
 (c) Instrument for measuring.

MIXED BUNCH

The names of six flowers have become mixed. How quickly can you sort them out?

SNOWCUP; silverfoot; meadow-glove; kingdrop; coltsweed, foxsweet.

Solid fare

LITTLE Rosie baked a cake,
Alas, it weighed like lead.
It sank the ducks upon the lake.
They wished they'd kept to bread.

ANSWERS TO PUZZLES

The glorious fifth. Rockets; squibs; pinwheels; Roman candles; cascades; crackers. **Where are they?** Paris; Washington; Rome; Athens; Moscow; London. **With a bang.** Cracker. **All ways the same.** A–4, 5, 9. B–5, 3, 10. C–3, 8, 7. D–8, 4. 6, **Mixed bunch.** Snowdrop; silverweed; meadowsweet; kingcup; coltsfoot; foxglove.

LAST WEEK'S ANSWER

C	A	B	I	N		A	H
A	I	L		O	T	E	R
P	R	E		T	I	E	R
	E	N	T	E	R		O
A	D	D	S		E	T	O
C		A	L	D	E	R	
O	C	H	R	E		N	I
R	O	A	S	T		S	O
N	O	D		S	P	E	N

THREE'S COMPANY

1 cow, crow, crowd. 2 kin, skin, skein. 3 rig, brig, bring. 4 ark, hark, shark. 5 can, scan, scant. 6 met, mete, meter.

Thoughtless scribbler of long ago

IN the British Museum is a fragment of a letter written in Egypt 1,800 years ago. It describes a journey up the Nile and is interesting not only because it mentions the legendary source of the Nile and the oracle of Jupiter Ammon, but also because it shows that the vile habit of thoughtlessly scribbling names on walls is quite an ancient one.

"Since many go on journeys," it runs, "and even betake themselves to a journey by ship, in order that they may visit works of art made by hands, I have followed their example, and having undertaken the voyage up the stream have arrived at Syene, and at the spot whence the Nile happens to flow out, and at Libya where Ammon chants his oracles to all men. And I have learned things of good omen, and *have engraved the names of my friends on the sanctuaries* for a perpetual remembrance."

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HE HAS PLAYED RUGBY FOR FIVE COUNTIES

It is not uncommon for Rugby Union players to have appeared for as many as three different counties, but Malcolm Greenhow, an R.A.F. navigator in Canberra bombers, may shortly be playing for his *sixth* county.

Born near Doncaster, Greenhow played first for Yorkshire; then, as a pupil teacher at Eastbourne, he represented Sussex.

Later, studying at St. Luke's College, Exeter, he played for Devon, and after taking a teaching post at Bury St. Edmunds (Suffolk) he assisted Eastern Counties.

When he moved to Ealing, he wore the Middlesex colours. In the R.A.F. he resumed his association with Sussex, but now he is on an R.A.F. station in Hertfordshire, and it is more than possible that he will play for that county—his sixth.

Qualification for county representation is birth or three months' residence.

Newest member of the Wasps Rugby Club is Ian Mettler. But it is likely to be a few years before you see him wearing the colours of the famous Middlesex club. For Ian is only five weeks old.

Ian is the son of Peter Mettler, who plays in the first XV, and his membership form was signed—and his subscription paid—when he was only one day old!

As a schoolboy John Barrett showed outstanding promise at rugby. But John was also a fine tennis player—and tennis came first. He became a Wimbledon player and an international, and last year he was made captain of Great Britain's Davis Cup team.

Now John has returned to rugger. As well as playing, he is also training and coaching a University College School Old Boys' side and showing that he has lost none of his old skill.

SKI-ING WITHOUT SNOW



Even when there's no snow in Moscow, people there can still go ski-ing—on roller-skis. This new sport is proving very popular in Russia.

Missing from our swimming teams

After five years as one of Britain's leading butterfly and breaststroke swimmers, Christine Gosden of Croydon has retired. She is to concentrate on her final year at London University, where she is reading sociology.

Since 1956 Christine has appeared in every English and British international side both at home and overseas, including two Olympic Games. Although she has decided that her career must come before international swimming honours, Christine is likely to carry on competing in university events and for her club, the Croydon Ladies.

Another familiar figure who will be missing from Britain's teams next year—also because of studies—is Ian Black, our greatest freestyle and butterfly swimmer. Ian has started a three-year art course at Aberdeen University, and is to rest from international competitions in 1961.

He hopes, however, to resume his phenomenal swimming career in time for the Empire and European Games in 1962.

SPORTS SHORTS

Fifteen-year-old Brian Phelps, Britain's high-diving champion, and his coach Wally Orner, have been given the freedom of the Empire Pool at Cardiff.

Susan Platt, javelin thrower of the London Olympiades, has been awarded the Lord Hawke Trophy for the best championship performance of the year in women's athletics. In the W.A.A.A. meeting in July Susan put up a new British record.

Andrew McConnell is only 2½, but already he plays golf and is often seen on local courses at Bournemouth. Using miniature clubs, young Andrew can hit a ball up to 60 yards.

More than 250 old cars are expected to take part in the veteran car run from London to Brighton on Sunday. Cheering one American entry, a 1903 Oldsmobile, will be 200 members of the Antique Automobile Club of America who are making an 18-day tour of Europe.

Most of the leading soccer clubs include golf in their training programmes, and every year the players take part in the professional footballers' golf championship. This year's winner is Don Revie, the Leeds United forward.

Torquay United view Mike Sangster's progress in tennis with mixed feelings. Last season Mike played for United as an amateur, but this Winter he is on a world tennis tour and will not be back until the soccer season is almost over.

When champion racing driver Mike Hawthorn was killed in a road crash last year, motoring organisations instituted a memorial to him in the form of a trophy to be awarded annually to the highest placed British or Commonwealth driver in the world championship. The first holder of the two-foot-high silver and gold trophy, is Australian Jack Brabham, world champion for the past two years.

Buyers from more than 20 countries will be at the British Sports Trade Fair at Berner's Hotel in London next week (7th-10th November). About 120 manufacturers of sports goods will be displaying their wares.

The output of the British sports equipment industry is valued at about £15,000,000 a year, and more than a third of it is exported.

Learners in life-jackets await their turn

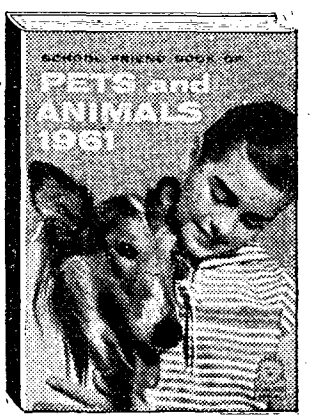


Young enthusiasts from many parts of Britain have been taking a sailing course at Burnham-on-Crouch, Essex. It is run by the Central Council of Physical Recreation. Here we see pupils in their life-jackets, for their turn of instruction as a yacht leaves with others.

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